

Translation

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY
PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY
(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference NT01001PCT	FOR FURTHER ACTION		See Form PCT/IPEA/416
International application No. PCT/JP2004/000260	International filing date (day/month/year) 15.01.2004	Priority date (day/month/year) 16.01.2003	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC B63C 3/12			
Applicant NAITO, Koichiro			

<p>1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of <u>6</u> sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p>3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:</p> <p>a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau) a total of <u>1</u> sheets, as follows:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.</p> <p>b. <input type="checkbox"/> (sent to the International Bureau only) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) _____, containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).</p>																								
<p>4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <table> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. I</td> <td>Basis of the report</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. II</td> <td>Priority</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. III</td> <td>Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. IV</td> <td>Lack of unity of invention</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. V</td> <td>Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. VI</td> <td>Certain documents cited</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. VII</td> <td>Certain defects in the international application</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. VIII</td> <td>Certain observations on the international application</td> </tr> </table>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. I	Basis of the report	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. II	Priority	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. III	Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. IV	Lack of unity of invention	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VI	Certain documents cited	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VII	Certain defects in the international application	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VIII	Certain observations on the international application
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Date of submission of the demand	Date of completion of this report
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

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Box No. I

Basis of the report

1. With regard to the language, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:

international search (Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b))
 publication of the international application (Rule 12.4)
 international preliminary examination (Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3)

2. With regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on (replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report):

the international application as originally filed/furnished
 the description:
 pages 1-13 _____ as originally filed/furnished
 pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
 pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____

the claims:
 nos. 3-5 _____ as originally filed/furnished
 nos.* 1, 2 _____ as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
 nos.* _____ received by this Authority on _____
 nos.* _____ received by this Authority on _____

the drawings:
 sheets 1-8 _____ as originally filed/furnished
 sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____
 sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____

a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) – see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.

3. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

the description, pages _____
 the claims, nos. _____
 the drawings, sheets/figs _____
 the sequence listing (specify): _____
 any table(s) related to sequence listing (specify): _____

4. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).

the description, pages _____
 the claims, nos. _____
 the drawings, sheets/figs _____
 the sequence listing (specify): _____
 any table(s) related to sequence listing (specify): _____

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

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Box No. V **Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	1-5	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims		YES
	Claims	1-5	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-5	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

Document 1: Microfilm of the specification and drawings annexed to the request of Japanese Utility Model Application No. 196689/1981 (Laid-open No. 102339/1983), (Yukio HITOTSUDANI), 12 July 1983

Document 2: JP 10-67272 A (Hamada Kogyo Kabushiki Kaisha), 10 March 1998

Document 3: US 6079729 A (Carl BROWN), 27 June 2000

Document 4: JP 28-2534 Y2 (Masayuki WAKABAYASHI), 27 March 1953

Document 5: JP 51-49754 Y2 (Yukichi OSAWA), 30 November 1976

Document 6: Microfilm of the specification and drawings annexed to the request of Japanese Utility Model Application No. 145969/1984 (Laid-open No. 61299/1986), (Yoshikazu WADA), 24 April 1986

The invention that is set forth in claim 1 does not involve an inventive step in the light of documents 1 to 3.

Document 1 discloses an overall configuration for a self-propelled platform for a watercraft.

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Document 2 discloses an invention wherein power units are provided on the left and on the right.

Document 3 discloses an invention wherein the power transmission units are connected in a triangular arrangement (refer to the figures).

The invention that is set forth in claim 1 could be invented by configuring so that the power units of the self-propelled platform for a watercraft which is disclosed in document 1 are disposed independently on the left and on the right, like in the invention that is disclosed in document 2, and so that the power transmission units thereof are connected in a triangular arrangement, like in the invention that is disclosed in document 3.

The invention that is set forth in claim 2 does not involve an inventive step in the light of document 1 and document 3.

Document 1 discloses an overall configuration for a self-propelled platform for a watercraft.

Document 3 discloses an invention wherein the power transmission units are connected in a triangular arrangement.

The invention that is set forth in claim 2 could be invented by configuring so that the power transmission units of the self-propelled platform for a watercraft which is disclosed in document 1 are connected in a triangular arrangement, like in the invention that is disclosed in document 3.

The invention that is set forth in claim 3 does not involve an inventive step in the light of documents 1 to 5. It would be easy for a person skilled in the art to

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conceive of providing the mooring means that are taught in documents 4 and 5 to the self-propelled platform for a watercraft which is disclosed in document 1.

The invention that is set forth in claim 4 does not involve an inventive step in the light of documents 1 to 6. It would be easy for a person skilled in the art to conceive of providing the mooring means that are taught in documents 4 and 5 and the buoy that is taught in document 6 to the self-propelled platform for a watercraft which is disclosed in document 1.

The invention that is set forth in claim 5 does not involve an inventive step in the light of documents 1 to 3. Document 1 discloses an invention wherein the floating units are provided between the wheel units and the power units in a manner such that the floating units can be moved.

Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

Claims 1 and 2 set forth a feature wherein the power transmission units are disposed in a triangular arrangement, and the description (page 3) indicates that "in the embodiments, when a watercraft is mounted upon the mounting platform (3) while on land, power is transmitted to the cranks (6c and 6d) via the rotation of the motors (5a and 5b) and the entirety of the connecting rods (6a and 6b) that have been connected in a triangular arrangement are rotated along with the rotation of the cranks (6c and 6d), thereby making it possible to move the self-propelled platform for a watercraft by operating the wheels (4a and 4b)."

However, the nature of the force that is transmitted and the technical significance of joining the power transmission units in a triangular arrangement are unclear in the light of only the disclosures in question.